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A/N

{rainflight}

Hey there! It's me, Rainflight, and I'm the hoster of this collab with TigerfeatherWrites! I'm so happy to be doing this, and telling Juniperwing's story!

{tigerfeather}

Tiger here! Super happy to be telling Rippleshadow's story, and in a collab with @Rainflight12 too! Hope you enjoy my oc as much as I do!

Enjoy the Collab Story, Faithless!

Allegiances

RIVERCLAN

Leader: LIGHTNINGSTAR - orange tom with a jagged white marking and bright yellow eyes

Deputy: COALFROST - black and white tom with blue eyes

Medicine Cat: HAWKFLOWER - dark grey and white she-cat

Warriors:

EGGSPLASH - cream and white tom

BLUEBROOK - blue grey tom with a torn left ear

APPRENTICE, HERONPAW

REDSUN - lively red and white tom

RIPPLESHADOW - sliver tabby tom with black patches and green eyes

APPRENTICE, DANDELIONPAW

RAVENPELT - black tom with green eyes

Apprentices:

HERONPAW - white she-cat with brown tabby patches

DANDELIONPAW - golden tabby she-cat with green eyes

Queens:

MOLESPIRIT - white and brown she-cat with a grumpy temper

ROSEMASK - white she-cat with ginger patches

Kits:

DUCKKIT - silver tom

OTTERKIT - pure brown she-cat

Elders:

SALMONSTRIPE - russet colored she-cat with a large scar on her back

~•••~

THUNDERCLAN

Leader: HOLLYSTAR - black tom with blue eyes

Deputy: GOLDENPETAL - golden-yellow tom with amber eyes

Medicine Cat: ROSESPARK - a rose-pink and ginger she-cat with pink-orange eyes

Warriors:

SORRELFUR - a tortoiseshell tom with bright green eyes
APPRENTICE: SHADEPAW

JAYFERN - a light gray tabby tom with green eyes

WILLOWHEART - a light brown tabby she-cat with light green eyes

JUNIPERWING - a dark gray she-cat with blue eyes

MUDDYNOSE - a brown spotted tom with amber eyes
APPRENTICE: PRICKLEPAW

FAWNSPOTS - a fawn-colored she-cat with hazel eyes

Apprentice:

PRICKLEPAW - a light gray and white tom

SHADEPAW - a dark gray and black tom

Queens:

FADINGDAWN - a light gray she-cat; mates with Sorrelfur

Kits:

SKYKIT - a dark gray tom with sky-blue eyes

FINCHKIT - a light gray tom with green eyes

Elders:

SPRUCESTEP - a brown tabby tom with dark yellow eyes

Chapter 1

~•••~ JUNIPERWING ~•••~

Juniperwing's story begins with her. The ThunderClan warrior shook out her fur and crouched lower.

Her eyes were silts as she stalked a mouse through the undergrowth.

She leapt, her paws outstretched. A yowl of her name sent her reeling backwards as the mouse scurried under a root.

"JUNIPERWING!" The voice called, sounding angry. Juniperwing knew that voice. It was Goldenpetal.

Juniperwing rolled his eyes as the golden tom came out of the bushes.

"I told you to patrol, not hunt!" Goldenpetal scolded.

"I know." Juniperwing dipped her head, trying to stop her claws before she lashed at the deputy. "But some prey is better than no prey."

Goldenpetal growled. "But you were meant to be patrolling."

Juniperwing only rolled her eyes again. "Please, don't lose your fur over this."

"Don't snap at me!" Goldenpetal hissed. "Go patrol!"

Juniperwing lashed her tail, stomping away. "Who died and made him leader?" She muttered.

Padding towards the border near the Thunderpath, Juniperwing thought.

Goldenpetal shouldn't be deputy. I should.

Juniperwing had always hated Goldenpetal. He was arrogant, annoying and overall a mangy excuse for a cat.

Juniperwing reached the Thunderpath with a scowl on her face. Why did Goldenpetal stop her from *hunting?*

Her ears pricked.

She had an idea.

Perhaps Juniperwing could take this into her own paws, and deal with Goldenpetal herself.

Yew berries. Also known as Deathberries. She knew about them from Rosespark, the medicine cat of ThunderClan.

If she could find them, she could blame the "accidental death" of Goldenpetal, the ThunderClan deputy that was also a mouse-heart, on something else.

Perhaps the clumsy deputy had found the Deathberries in a remote part of the woods...

ThunderClan would be none the wiser about her murder.

No. She couldn't.

She had a mate. And one day would have kits. And maybe grandkits, and great grandkits!

Juniperwing couldn't do this.

It was bad. She could be exiled.

No.

Juniperwing shook her head and padded away, back to the ThunderClan camp.

I'll have to think about this more.

Chapter 2

~•••~ RIPPLESHADOW ~•••~

Greenleaf had brought scorching sun rather than mounds of prey to RiverClan, so fetching water for the kits and elders was essential.

Rippleshadow was accompanying his apprentice Dandelionpaw to the river despite Heronpaw getting to fetch water alone.

Needless to say, she wasn't happy. "Why are you here?", the golden tabby whined. "To keep watch on you. I can't trust you.", Rippleshadow snapped back "You can't trust me?", she laughed, "That sounds like a you problem. Even Lightningstar thinks I'm trustworthy."

"Then Lightningstar is wrong. You always talk back to me, how do I know you don't bear some kind of grudge against me if you don't obey without-", Rippleshadow stopped himself, realizing how bad that sounded, but it was too late.

Dandelionpaw's smile fell to a look of horror, "That's it, isn't it?", she muttered, hardly audible, "It's not about trust, just control. That's why you never let me spar against you, why you won't take questions or complaints. You're just scared I won't do what you say." Rippleshadow opened his mouth to speak, but she interrupted him, her gaze full of anger, "Shut up! Don't say a word. I can't take this anymore!", she dropped the moss full of water in front of Rippleshadow, "I'm going to go ask Lightningstar for a better mentor. You can take that back yourself."

She ran back to camp, not turning to look at her shocked mentor. For a second, he just stood there, playing in his mind what would happen next. Dandelionpaw would talk to Lightningstar who, because he was so in love with her trustworthiness, would immediately assign her a new mentor.

Probably Eggsplash or some other fish-brain. Then the whole Clan would hate him and he'd probably get exiled and spent the rest of his days living off of frogs and twoleg scraps.....No.

That couldn't happen. He had to stop her. "Wait!", Rippleshadow yelled, chasing after his apprentice. But Dandelionpaw didn't wait, and camp wasn't far from where they were.

So Rippleshadow leapt, he'd always been a good jumper, if he could just pin her down then maybe they could talk it out...

Snap.

The sound came from below his paws.

He hesitantly look down. Dandelionpaw wasn't moving. He yelled her name, squeezed the water onto her head and, finally, tried to shake her awake.

Nothing worked, so he rolled her over onto her back, and was met with lifeless eyes. His breath caught in his throat.

"I...killed her?"

Chapter 3

~•••~ JUNIPERWING ~•••~

Juniperwing shook her fur. Yawning, the ThunderClan warrior padded out of the warriors den.

She couldn't deal with the constant snores from Muddynose, and Sorrelfur kept kicking her in his sleep.

Juniperwing reached the front of the clearing, gazing up at the Highrock.

"One day...I'll be on that rock." She murmured, padding away quickly before any cat noticed her staring.

Sunlight filtered through the medicine den as Juniperwing entered. Willowheart had scored her claws over Juniperwing's flank accidentally in her sleep, and now it was stinging.

"Juniperwing? You never come to the medicine den! What's wrong?" A voice meowed.

It was Rosespark, the ThunderClan medicine cat. Juniperwing nodded at her. "Willowheart accidentally clawed me in her sleep, can you help?"

Rosespark nodded and turned to the medicine storage, her tail waving behind her.

There was awkward silence over the den, other than the rustling noises of Rosespark finding some herbs.

"So...Rosespark?" Juniperwing broke the silence. "Do you know what happens when a cat eats Deathberries?"

Rosespark turned to her, gaze full of horror. "What do you mean, Juniperwing? You haven't eaten one, have you?"

"No, no." Juniperwing assured her.

Rosespark nodded, looking relieved. "Why do you need to know?" She questioned.

"Just curious." Juniperwing shrugged.

If I can get a hold of them, I can lead Goldenpetal to them. He'd be none the wiser because he wouldn't know what they are!

Rosespark nodded, grabbing a poultice and working it onto Juniperwing's scratches.

"I find Deathberries by the Thunderpath. I only use them if it's necessary." Rosespark explained.

Juniperwing nodded. "Thanks. Just curious, what do they do?"

"They..." Rosespark shuddered. "They can kill a cat within minutes, and Deathberries can kill a cat that needs to be killed without sound."

Juniperwing nodded once more. *Perfect.*

When Rosespark finished with the poultice, Juniperwing thanked her and left the den.

If only I could find those Deathberries and lead Goldenpetal to them... Then that mange-pelt would be gone for good.

Chapter 4

~•••~ RIPPLESHADOW ~•••~

Rippleshadow paced back and forth, claws scraping against the dirt and he turned to walk from the corpse, then back again.

His mind was swimming, well...more like drowning in fear. Except all the fear came from what would happen to him, not the fact his apprentice was dead.

Perhaps that was the scariest part of all.It took slipping and falling on the wet grass to knock Rippleshadow out of his trance of self pity and anxiety.

Finally, he reached a conclusion."It's not my fault," he muttered, "Dandelionpaw was overreacting. All I said was that she was untrustworthy, I don't remember doing anything bad to her before that." Yes, that made sense. He wasn't a bad cat, so he couldn't do bad things.

Simple.

A while later, Rippleshadow crashed into camp, panting heavily and looking exhausted. His thundering footsteps disturbed a flock of seagulls which cawed loudly, alerting his Clanmates to his presence.

"Dandelionpaw!", Rippleshadow yelled, desperately fumbling inside his head to remember his cover story, "She...she got caved in! I tried to stop her!"

Lightningstar quickly emerged out of his den, concern clear on his face, "Where is she? How did this happen?"

"We were out getting water when she ran into a cave.", Rippleshadow lied then, remembering that Lightningstar called his apprentice trustworthy, quickly added to his story, "There was a giant puddle there, more water than you'd get at the river in its

dried up state. I tried to stop her..."

Rippleshadow gritted his teeth at that part, if only his apprentice had listened to him.

He continued, "...but she ran in anyway, and the cave collapsed in on her. It's near the river, follow me!"

"Eggsplash, Bluebrook, Ravenpelt, follow me!", Lightningstar called before running after Rippleshadow, and all five cats raced to the site of Dandelionpaw's 'accident'.

When they arrived, it was just as how Rippleshadow had left it. Rocks filled the entrance completely. The cave was surprisingly stable, he had snapped a claw getting it to collapse. Only now did he see paw prints in the dust on the rocks left by him.

He winced, what if his Clanmates noticed and connected the dots? He felt Eggsplash's paw rest on his shoulder, "I know you're scared, but we'll get her out of there."

Rippleshadow smiled, they didn't suspect a thing. "Thanks." he replied, "That made me feel a lot better."

While the other cats frantically worked to save the lost apprentice, Rippleshadow simply mused on how lucky he was that Eggsplash was a complete idiot.

Chapter 5

~•••~ JUNIPERWING ~•••~

Juniperwing plucked a branch, gleaming with small, red berries. *Deathberries.*

The ThunderClan she-cat was ready. Grabbing the wooden branch in her teeth gently, she stalked through the dense forest.

She dropped the branch when she was close to a mouse, scuffling through the grass as if it wasn't being stalked.

Juniperwing shook her head to clear it, pouncing at the creature. With a swift bite, she killed it.

Carrying the dead mouse back to the branch, she dropped it. The mouse lay limp as Juniperwing hooked a Deathberry with her claw.

She sliced the mouse open, eyes gleaming as she snuck the Deathberry into it's stomach. Juniperwing flipped the mouse onto it's back to hide the open wound.

She caught some other things to make it more believable, catching a blackbird, another mouse, and a very thin vole.

Patting all the dead prey into a pile, Juniperwing covered it with dirt, padding back to camp after hiding the Deathberry branch.

"Goldenpetal?" She called into the warrior's den, where he was sleeping. "Goldenpetal!"

The deputy didn't wake. Juniperwing rolled her eyes and trotted off, to find Jayfern outside of the apprentice's den, washing his fur.

Jayfern was Juniperwing's mate. Her love. But could she really kill a cat without him finding out?

Jayfern looked up and purred loudly, signaling with his tail to

Juniperwing.

"Hello, Jayfern." Juniperwing purred, nudging his flank with her tail. "How is everything?"

"Amazing!" Jayfern meowed. "I just finished my patrol. Hey, could I ask you something?"

"Of course." Juniperwing tilted her head. "Anything."

"Would you...be ready for kits?" Jayfern asked, shyly looking at his paws.

Juniperwing's heart dropped. *If I have kits, I can't be deputy. But if I say no, it'll break his heart...*

"I'm..." Juniperwing purposefully hesitated. Jayfern looked at her intently. "I'm sorry. I can't. Not yet."

Once I become deputy, maybe. Not now, Jayfern!

The tom's eyes dropped lower. "I understand. I totally get it."

"Thank you for understanding. I have to go on patrol now." Juniperwing meowed awkwardly.

There was no patrol. Just her and Goldenpetal. Going along with her plan.

She padded back to the warrior's den with her pelt feeling hot with shame. "Really, Juniperwing? Really?" She scolded herself quietly.

"GOLDENPETAL!" Juniperwing yowled, loud enough to jolt Goldenpetal out of his sleep. The tom stirred and lifted his head. "What?" He demanded.

"I caught some prey. I can go get it, and we can share." Juniperwing tried to sound convincing.

"...okay." Goldenpetal seemed hesitant. "But he quick."

Juniperwing nodded and raced out of the camp, back to the spot

she had buried the prey.

Holding the mice by their tails and the blackbird in one of her paws, Juniperwing limped back to camp.

"It's here, Goldenpetal!" She called, placing it by him in the warriors den and being sure to push the Deathberry mouse towards him.

As he was about to bite into it, Juniperwing's thoughts whirled.

If he starts dying here, everyone will know it was me!

"WAIT!" Juniperwing jolted back into reality. Goldenpetal dropped the mouse and stared. "What now?"

"We have to go. To the forest. Near the river is better to eat." Juniperwing made up an excuse quickly, gathering the prey and snatching it from Goldenpetal.

"Let's go." She mewed curtly, leaving. Goldenpetal scurried behind her.

The two reached the river in no time. And it was finally time.

Goldenpetal bit down into the mouse.

And the plan was working.

Perfectly.

Chapter 6

~•••~ RIPPLESHADOW ~•••~

Red light draped across the sky and the sun gradually fell. All was calm, for a moment, and Rippleshadow almost nodded off; but a pained yowl split the air.

They must have found her, he thought solemnly. For a moment, a hint of guilt started eating him up, but he ignored it, nothing good ever came from being consumed by guilt.

If he just held on for now, nothing more would happen, no other cats would die. Everyone would move on in a moon or two and he could get back to his normal Clan life.

Maybe he would even get a new, better apprentice.

That was harsh. Dandelionpaw had been, for a while, a good apprentice. Rippleshadow was surprised by how much he already missed her.The party of warriors left the cave, interrupting his inner musings.

In the jaws of Bluebrook, held by the scruff, was Dandelionpaw. "I-I'm sorry Rippleshadow...we did all we could.", Eggsplash muttered gently, tears in his eyes."A brave soul was lost tonight.", Lightningstar announced solemnly, "But we must bring her body back to camp for the vigil."

And so the warriors trudged back to camp, the sky turning an inky black. Stars shone from above but somehow their light felt dim and colourless.

Rippleshadow had been sure he was fine but some part of him must have been upset. He could usually run with ease, travelling silently through the night. It was how he earned his name. But now his legs shook violently under him, as if only his body knew something terrible was happening.

He shook it off.

How ridiculous. He sounded wishy-washy. Just get back to camp...back to camp...back to camp...

Chapter 7

~•••~ JUNIPERWING ~•••~

"What have you *done!?"* Goldenpetal rasped, writhing in pain. Juniperwing watched silently.

"It hurts! Stop it!" Goldenpetal wailed. His voice dropped hardly into a whisper. "StarClan...StarClan will make you pay, Juniperwing!"

"No. StarClan will not even welcome you. Goldenpetal, you will be in the Dark Forest." Juniperwing purred.

Goldenpetal rasped once more before collapsing silently, his eyes wide and quiet. Juniperwing's own eyes betrayed nothing.

Hiding the prey silently, and then washing in the river water to hide her scent around the area, she raced back to camp.

"Goldenpetal's dead!" She wailed in her best 'I'm so scared' voice.

Hollystar, Rosespark and Jayfern all raced out of their respective dens. "What?" Hollystar growled.

"How?" Jayfern asked.

"What happened?" Rosespark shuddered.

"I..I don't know! He was by the river! I passed him while on a patrol!" Juniperwing shook her head, her eyes wide.

"We must retrieve his body." Hollystar mewed grimly. "Rosespark, Jayfern, Juniperwing and Pricklepaw. Let's go."

The called cats all left camp with Juniperwing and Hollystar in the lead. They reached the river within minutes, and Goldenpetal's body was still laying there.

"He must have died recently." Rosespark checked around the former deputy's body. "...deathberries." she muttered.

"I smell Juniperwing's scent. Perhaps she had something to do with this?" Pricklepaw growled.

"No." Jayfern growled back. "It was here before, since she said she was the one who spotted Goldenpetal."

"He's gone." Rosespark was muttering. Juniperwing almost felt grief for the she-cat. Rosespark and Goldenpetal had been littermates.

"How did he manage to die?" Hollystar wondered aloud. Juniperwing's claws scored the earth.

"He must have mistaken deathberries for something else. Poor soul..." Juniperwing tried her best to sound convincing, like he actually had been stupid enough to eat deathberries.

"Well... Pricklepaw, Jayfern, grab his body. We will hold a vigil tonight and I will name my new deputy."

Juniperwing's heart soared. Perhaps this was her time.

As Pricklepaw heaved Goldenpetal's body, with Jayfern, Juniperwing bounded ahead to camp.

When they reached there, all the cats let out shocked sounds of grief and sorrow. "Goldenpetal! He's dead!" One ThunderClan cat wailed.

That was Fawnspots. Goldenpetal's mother.

Juniperwing felt more stabs of sadness. *I took away her kit...*

She shook her head to clear it as Pricklepaw and Jayfern set down Goldenpetal's body in the middle of camp.

Rosespark and Sprucestep were busy placing lavender leaves and different good-smelling plants around.

"Juniperwing, you don't have to sit vigil. I know you didn't really like Goldenpetal." Jayfern padded to her side and whispered.

"I'll sit vigil. It'll be okay." Juniperwing mumured back. Though she didn't want to have to sit outside all night, she wanted to seem like she cared about his death.

Jayfern nodded and took his place, staring down at Goldenpetal's body.

"You were a great deputy, Goldenpetal." He murmured.

Juniperwing thought otherwise, but didn't say anything.

I will be deputy. I will rule ThunderClan. I know I will.

As Juniperwing watched Goldenpetal's body, a faint whisper in her ear made her turn in fright.

"Juniperwing, StarClan is ashamed of you."

It was Goldenpetal's voice.